GEORGE FRANKLIN MOULTON

George Franklin Moulton was born 19 March 1863 at Heber, Wasatch Co., Utah. His parents were Thomas and Sarah Denton Moulton and he was the youngest of ten children. Father had three brothers and three sisters born in Irchester, Northamptonshire, England. Another brother was born on ship while the family were coming to America. Two more brothers were born in Utah, one in Provo and one in Heber.

Father's parents were early-day converts to the Latter-day Saints Church, coming to Utah with the ill-fated Willie Handcart Company of 1856.

Grandfather Moulton was a very strict man and expected his boys to keep busy. If the boys had some friends stop after school he would ask them if they didn't have work to do at home.

Father went to school at Heber. He tells of one of his school masters. It seems that father had done something that his teacher didn't like so as punishment he hung father up by his thumbs. An older brother came in and cut father down and told the school master not to do such a thing again.

Father's early life was spent helping his father farm at Heber. At the age of 20 he married Ada Lenora Cluff, the eldest daughter of Henry and Kezia Russell Cluff. They were married 27 September 1883 in the old Endowment House in Salt Lake City.

They made their home at Keetly. Wasatch County, Utah, where father worked in the mine. She also worked at the Ontario drain tunnel at Keetley. While they lived at Elkhorn (Keetley), six children were born to them: Sarah, born 6 Feb. 1884 and died the same day; George Cluff, born 17 Dec. 1885, married Ethel Griffiths, died 13 June 1913; Hattie May, born 13 Apr. 1888, married John Williams and died Dec. 1965; Ada Lenora, born 6 Jan. 1891, married Alma Moulton and died 10 Sept 1940; Hannah Pearl, born 22 Feb. 1893 and died 9 Mar. 1893; Rodney Earl, born 19 Apr. 1894, married to Maybell Bates.

In 1894 they decided to move to Idaho. I'm not sure how many went but I guess that is a story in itself. It was a long trip from Heber to Chapin, Teton Co, Idaho, in a wagon. Mother carried Rodney, a very fat baby, on a pillow.

Father homesteaded 160 acres of ground at Chapin Creek in Idaho. After they got a house built and some farming done, father returned to Park City, Utah, to work.

Our brother Bacil Dean was born 20 April 1887 at Chapin, married Eldora Day and died 25 Apr. 1968. After Bacil was born Mother returned to Keetley where Forest Denton was born 10 Feb. 1901 and died 12 days later. They then returned to Chapin where three more babies were born: Lynn Russell, born 8 Mar. 1902 and died 29 Jan. 1905; Violet, born 22 June 1905 and married Lewis Burton Diamond; Urcle Keith, born 23 Mar. 1908 and married LaVieve Fillmore.

In 1910 Father went to work in the Moose Creek sawmill.

It was while he was working there that a forest fire started. We were all moved out of the house and across the creek while the men fought the fire, which burned to within a few feet of the house we lived in. Later, while working at the Trail Creek sawmill, Father got his hand in the planning saw and cut three of his fingers quite badly. Mother had to hook the horses to the buggy and take him about 20 miles to Driggs, Idaho, to the doctor. Luckily Father didn't loose his fingers but the accident did leave his middle finger crooked.

In 1911 he and his son-in-law, Alma, were cutting timber in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Alma's axe slipped and cut his foot. It was winter and there was no doctor in Jackson Hole. By the time one was brought from Driggs, Alma had died. While still at the Trail Creek sawmill son George was killed by lightning on 13 June 1913, leaving a wife and one son.

The family moved into Victor, which was at the end of the railroad, and operated a restaurant and hotel. After operating the restaurant for two years they moved back onto the farm where they kept dairy cows.

In July 1917, during World War I, son Rodney left for the Army, spending two years in France. Son Bacil joined the Army the following spring but never did go overseas.

When influenza was so bad in 1918 we all were sick but Father didn't go to bed at all. About this time daughter Lenora was divorced and Mother and Father took her three children to raise. They kept them until they were grown.

In 1920 we moved to Utah, first to Flowell, west of Fillmore, in Millard County, where Father rented a farm. There son Bacil was married to Eldora Day. Four years later we moved to Provo in Utah County. Father farmed out where the Pioneer Drive-in Theater now stands. He also worked at Castilla. In 1926 Father, Mother, and Urcle moved the few miles to Springville where they spent some time farming in Hobble Creek Canyon near Kelly's Grove.

While living in Springville, Father became ill with cancer. Daughter Lenora had him come to Bingham Canyon to see a Doctor Richards. He gave Father little hope and finally, on Dec. 11th 1933, Father passed away in the Bingham Canyon Hospital. He was buried in the Heber Cemetary.

Father was deeply religious but never forced his religion on anyone. While we lived at Chapin, Father was very active in the Church, serving as President of the Young Men's Mutual from 1900 to 1902 and in the bishopric as first counselor from 1902 to 1909.

On 27 Sept. 1933 Father and Mother celebrated their 50th weeking anniversary with four of their remaining six children in attendance. There were also 11 grandchildren.

written by daughter Violet Moulton Diamond. printed 1973.